

# 2018 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

New Haven Mayor Terry E. McDonald

Thank you Steve. Members of City Council, my fellow elected officials, members of the New Haven Chamber of Commerce, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. I am pleased to be with you this evening and to present you with the State of the City.

Tonight before we talk about the city, I want to take a moment and recognize one of the longest running businesses in downtown New Haven. In 1983, George Branning opened the New Haven Bakery on Lincoln Highway. One of so many customers said, “This is best cake I’ve ever had. One customer said, “When my birthday comes around, my husband knows he better get me a cake from New Haven Bakery, or he’s in trouble!” I think one of the best comments I’ve heard was when someone described New Haven Bakery as “Great personal service with a smile where everybody knows your name.” We are a community where everybody knows your name and New Haven Bakery is a part of the fabric that has made our community special.

Over 35 years of service speaks volumes about George and his family's commitment to the community. Unfortunately, the Branning family lost George just this past January. So tonight, we not only remember George Branning, but recognize the entire Branning family for their service to the New Haven Community.

**Fritchha Award**

At this time, I also want to take a moment and recognize this year's recipient of the Bill Fritchha Memorial Award. This individual is one who has done so much for our community and individuals. She has been a leader, a friend, a mentor and most importantly the finest example of what it means to be a servant of the community. This individual has been a longtime supporter of the community and is always the first to volunteer for events and personal needs. She has given so much of her time and talents - all of which she serves with true humility.... which is the very personification that makes this award so special.

Katie, I know that your father was the owner of New Haven Bakery and I'm certain that he would be extremely proud of you tonight. I'm sure he is looking down upon you and your family from Heaven as we present you as the 2018 recipient of the Bill Fritch Memorial Award. Your family has a reason to be proud and you are well deserving of this award for your outstanding service. Ladies and Gentlemen, the 2018 recipient of the Bill Fritch Memorial Award is our friend, Katie Branning.

Tonight I have the privilege to deliver my 19<sup>th</sup> State of City message to you. Your city government has been busy this past year and we look forward to 2018 as we continue to move forward with a positive vision for our great city, and lead our community with a continued enthusiasm for a better New Haven.

Friends, I can stand here tonight, and tell you that the state of New Haven is strong, that we are a community that is growing and moving forward with an excitement that is very encouraging, but there is still plenty to accomplish for the betterment of our city.

Even though this is my 39<sup>th</sup> year of service to our beloved New Haven community, I have never felt more confident in our city than I am today.

New Haven is the kind of community where a young person, who has a vision, is eager, and works hard can one day become Mayor! The opportunities are nearly endless for those who have a dream and the desire to accomplish their dreams.

New Haven is a city that is inclusive and welcoming community and we as a community and an administration will not tolerate discrimination in any form, whether in word or in action! We are a community that welcomes all who come in peace, honesty, and integrity. Those who are willing to become involved - you have a place here, we welcome you to your new home.

The City of New Haven will not support, condone, defend, tolerate or accept any discrimination based on any factor including but not limited to gender, sexual orientation, color, creed, nationality, politics, physical or mental ability, or religion.

The City of New Haven is a place to be safe and secure in your person and property. We are a community that places people and service in a place of high regard. Your city faces the same challenges as any city in America or the world, but your team in city services works hard with our partners in government and the private sector, creating a city that is responsive and engaged, a city that is highly efficient and effective with your dollars. While there is always room for improvements and greater efficiencies, Team New Haven makes it possible for me as the Mayor to continue to move forward with a positive vision for our great city, and lead our community with a continued enthusiasm for a better New Haven.

**GIS Dept.**

Over the years, I have had the privilege to learn so much from so many sources and to see the advancement in technology that has had a huge impact on our society and our community. These advancements in technology have benefited the employees of the city and have made it possible to provide more and better services to you the citizen. One such technology is that of the GIS Geographic Information System.

When I took office in 2000, we were actually hand drawing maps for streets, and utility services. It took months to get caught up and a draftsman was hired from a private engineering firm to accomplish this task. Today, those same maps can be drawn and updated much faster with multiple layers of information embedded into the maps.

In 2017, there were over 2,000 points, lines and polygons created in GIS. These symbols represent real life items like manholes, pipes and service areas to inform and educate citizens, visitors and businesses of what is occurring in New Haven.

The GIS Department helped complete over 100 projects across the entire city last year alone. For instance, the Scarborough Inflow and Infiltration presentation helped create awareness for the neighborhood.

In 2018, the GIS Department will partner with other city departments to accomplish a new permitting software that will simplify the permitting process and save time for everyone.

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#### Economic Development

2017 was an exciting year for the City of New Haven as we experienced an unprecedented number of new jobs and investment. Tonight, I would like to highlight and honor the following companies who placed their investments in New Haven's future:

**Continental Diamond Tool** is investing twelve million dollars in a new manufacturing campus located on Rose Avenue. This project will retain 69 jobs and will add 77 new positions. The new facility is absolutely beautiful and reflects CDT's commitment to quality, precision and, most importantly, their workforce. Thank you Nick and Ray Viggiano for your commitment to New Haven. (Applause)

**Multimatic** is one of newest corporate citizens opening a new operation in the former Vera Bradley manufacturing campus on Adams Center Road. Multimatic is investing 39 million dollars in state-of-the-art manufacturing equipment and building improvements. As a result of this investment, 173 new jobs are being created. I would like to thank Multimatic for choosing New Haven! We look forward to a long and prosperous relationship. (Applause)

**Sauder Manufacturing** relocated its Wieland Manufacturing Division to New Haven occupying the former Parker Hannifin facility located on Rose Avenue. Sauder is investing over 11 million dollars in this facility. This project is bringing 123 positions from their previous location and will be adding 60 additional jobs. Sauder has a long-established history built on strong family values. I'm proud to welcome Sauder Manufacturing to our family. (Applause)

**Quincy Recycling** maintained its commitment to New Haven by investing over 700 thousand dollars in new equipment. This investment retained 21 positions and will be adding two additional jobs.

**Superior Aluminum Alloys** expanded its operations by investing almost 13 million dollars in new equipment. This investment retained 132 positions and added 12 additional jobs. I'm proud of our local employers and the trust they have placed in New Haven! (Applause)

In 2017, under the direction of Brian Yoh, the Planning Department managed over 70 million dollars in new investment - - -

**70. Million. Dollars!!**

Over the last year, 58 new homes were built with a combined value of almost 10 million dollars, at an average home price of \$171,820.

Investment remains strong. New Haven is growing and we are preparing ourselves for the future. We are seeking new opportunities for industrial growth east of I-469 between US Highway 930 and Dawkins Road. We are continuing to work with the General Services Administration and our elected leaders in Washington D.C. to secure and ensure that the Casad Depot is used for Economic Development opportunities.

The City of New Haven is striving to make sustainable growth a high priority as we look toward the future. By creating growth management policies which promote development that maximizes the investments we've made in roads, sidewalks, utilities, and other infrastructure, the city will strengthen its ability to support continued public improvements. Additionally, these policies will help preserve New Haven's small-town character by promoting mixed land uses, neighborhood walkability, diverse housing opportunities, and access to amenities.

#### **Parks & Recreation**

2017 will forever be a landmark year for our Parks and Recreation Department. The opening of the New Haven Community Center was a long time goal for our city - - a few decades since the first dialog about a community center is a long time to wait. When the Jury Pool project was being contested, we heard we would never get a community center because of the cost of the pool. Folks, this is New Haven and in New Haven we believe that all things are possible. When

we are faced with a challenge, we don't back down.....we simply dig a little deeper and find a way to make it happen.

The Community Center is now a reality and has been accepted with open arms within the community. With over 900 members in the fitness center alone, other events and programs are growing. While we are proud of the Community Center, we are far from being done. The city has purchased additional acreage between the current Community Center and Wayne Haven Industrial Park. This acreage will allow the city and the Parks Department to construct a multi-purpose "field house". This project will also help to ensure that the property west of Meadowbrook will forever be used for recreation.

#### **Roads & Infrastructure**

This year you will see the completion of the 2016 and 2017 Community Crossing Road Projects, renovation of the downtown planting beds, and the removal of pear trees since they have become an issue. We will be assertive in our efforts to reduce clean water entering our sewer system.

We are working with Allen County in the transition for bridge maintenance and replacement. We are working with officials to accomplish bridge inspection which is required by law.

### Public Safety

Our emergency services professionals, both career and volunteers, continue to provide the best services in Allen County. Response times are the best, skills and training are finally honed. Emergency services participation in the community is at an all-time high.

The “Kops for Kids” Christmas Program and the New Haven Fire Muster are two fine examples of our emergency personnel investing in the life of the community and providing a service that is not in their job descriptions. I am so very proud of our men and women in public safety. Their level of dedication is second to none and I ask you to help support the programs they provide.

Please plan to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kops for Kids Golf Outing that will be held on Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at Whispering Creek Golf Course. And mark your calendars now for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fire Muster in

Downtown New Haven on Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup> in downtown New Haven. Your participation and sponsorship of these events will make a difference.

As you can see, we have made some great strides in 2017 – and New Haven is poised for some really great times ahead. However, no Mayor can do this alone. It requires a community that embraces a vision and is willing to work alongside their elected leaders to achieve the goals and dreams common to each one of us.

I Love New Haven. I have committed nearly 40 years to my community. I am proud to call myself a son of New Haven, and I am honored to be your Mayor. I am proud of our business community for your vision and leadership, and am proud of our citizens who make New Haven their home. With your involvement, we can continue to move forward on a good path as we prepare for the future in keeping our community moving in a positive direction to prosper and grow.

Thank you for being here tonight and thank you for all that each of  
you do to make New Haven even better.

God Bless you all and God Bless New Haven.